

## **FY24 NDAA Member Day JO Testimony on Remote and Isolated Installation Amendment**

- It is critical that we take steps to address the serious issues that we're facing at our remote and isolated military installations in the High Desert, Eastern Sierra, and across our county and to ensure our overall military readiness amidst a shifting defense landscape.
- There are 43 Department of Defense installations in the United States designated as remote or isolated, meaning they are far from key support services and often suffer from limited services, such as reduced access to health care and scarce housing options. Accordingly, servicemembers, dependents, and support staff have unique needs at these installations.
  - California's 23<sup>rd</sup> district encompasses such remote military installations as Fort Irwin National Training Center, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake and Edwards Air Force Base.
- I encourage the Committee to consider an amendment that addresses the critical civilian staffing shortage at our local remote bases and directs the Department of Defense to find solutions to this critical issue. This will help ensure high standards in quality of life are maintained at our bases to support our servicemembers and their families while they call these communities home.
  - Such an amendment would assess vacancies at remote and isolated installations and make recommendations to the Department of Defense on ways it can incentivize workers to fill those roles in a timely manner. These important jobs range from food preparers to contractors to teachers and are critical to supporting servicemembers and their families at military installations like these.
- While a similar amendment was included in the House-passed FY23 NDAA, it was not included in the final version. I encourage the Committee to consider the inclusion of this amendment in the FY24 NDAA.